

the switching device including at least one manually operated push-button switching element switchable between two switching states for generating respective switching state output signals at the signal output in order to switch the electrical system between the at least two functional states;

the electronic switching module including a non-volatile flip-flop formed by EEPROM cells which are operable for storing the switching state of the switching element, wherein the electronic switching module maintains the switching state output signal corresponding to the stored switching state at the signal output to maintain the functional state of the electrical system until the switching element is switched to the other switching state, and maintains the switching state output signal corresponding to the stored switching state at the signal output to maintain the functional state of the electrical system during an interruption of power from the voltage supply to the electrical system.

6. (AMENDED) The electric circuit of claim 1 wherein:

the at least one manually operated push-button switching element includes two manually operated push-button switching elements switchable between two switching states for generating respective switching state output signals at the signal output in order to switch the electrical system between the at least two functional states.

14. (AMENDED) An electric circuit for an electrical system in a motor vehicle, the electrical system being powered by a voltage supply and having different functional states, the electric circuit comprising:

at least one control stage including a switching device, an electronic switching module, a single signal output, and a single connecting line connecting the signal output to the electrical system;

the switching device including two manually operated push-button switching elements switchable between two switching states for generating respective switching state output signals at the signal output in order to switch the electrical system between the different functional states;

the electronic switching module including a non-volatile flip-flop formed by EEPROM cells which are operable for storing the switching state of the switching element,

wherein the electronic switching module maintains the switching state output signal corresponding to the stored switching state at the signal output to maintain the functional state of the electrical system until the switching elements are switched to the other switching state, and maintains the switching state output signal corresponding to the stored switching state at the signal output to maintain the functional state of the electrical system during an interruption of power from the voltage supply to the electrical system.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment